

ABSTRACT

A method (100; 200) and apparatus (230) for controlling a display of video being output from a set-top box determines (102) if a user selected channel contains programming having a first aspect ratio and stretches (106) automatically video from the user selected channel having the first aspect ratio, if the user selected channel contains programming having the first aspect ratio, to fill a frame having a second aspect ratio that is different than the first aspect ratio using a predetermined stretching function. This determining and stretching is initiated automatically upon tuning (101) to a user-selected channel. According to another aspect of the present invention, an exemplary embodiment (200) of a method for controlling video output from a set-top box, upon receiving a zoom toggle command from a user via a remote control unit, the method determines (202) if a user-selected program includes a second aspect ratio different than a first aspect ratio and ignores (205) the zoom toggle command if the programming does not include the second aspect ratio. If the programming does include the second aspect ratio, then the method selects (206; 208) a next available zoom mode for a first or second aspect ratio television type if the television type setting is set for the first or second aspect ratio, respectively, and sets (207; 210) an output format to a mode specified by a first predetermined output setting.